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Washington Employment Security Hires New Chief Economist

OLYMPIA – Kirsta Glenn has been appointed as chief economist for the Washington State Employment Security Department, Commissioner Sylvia P. Mundy announced today.

Glenn succeeds former Chief Economist Dennis Fusco who retired from state government service.

“Dr. Kirsta Glenn is an exceptional analytical thinker with a profound understanding of Washington’s economy. She was the perfect choice to fill the shoes of a long line of expert economists who have helped our department become the state’s top labor market research center,” Mundy said.

Greg Weeks, director of the department’s Labor Market and Economic Analysis branch, said Glenn was selected from a well-qualified pool of applicants because of her extensive management and research experience, well-developed presentation skills and customer-oriented view of labor market information.

“Dr. Glenn brings energy and enthusiasm to the job,” Weeks added. “She is committed to building upon the department’s excellent labor market information products.”

As chief economist, Glenn will help lead staff in compiling, analyzing and disseminating information about Washington’s labor force and economic conditions.

“I am fortunate to work with a very skilled and committed team,” Glenn said. “Our top priorities are to continue to provide current, insightful analysis to our customers and make our data more accessible.”

Glenn began working for the Employment Security Department in April 2001 as an economic analyst then became supervisor of the Occupational Informational Center.

She received her Ph.D. in economics from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. Before joining the Employment Security Department, she was an assistant professor of economics at American University in Bulgaria in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria; Ithaca College in Ithaca, N.Y.; and the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Ark.; and an instructor at Vanderbilt University. She also served for two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali, West Africa.

Employment Security’s economists provide a broad range of current and historical information including occupational forecasts, career tools, wage data, agricultural trends, industry analysis, unemployment statistics, demographics and more. The information is used by employers, job seekers, researchers, policymakers, news reporters and others. Most statistics and reports are available online at <http://www.wa.gov/esd/lmea>.

News Media: Dr. Kirsta Glenn can be reached for interviews at (360) 438-4812 or kglenn@esd.wa.gov. A photo of Glenn is available on Employment Security’s Web site at <http://www.wa.gov/esd/AgencyInfo/news.html>. To obtain a high-resolution image suitable for print publication, contact Kristin Alexander at (360) 902-9307 or kalexander@esd.wa.gov.

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